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the Illinois Branch of the Institute of Criminal law and Criminology, Chicago, June 1, 1918.)

**Louisiana Convicts Lose Stripes for Neat Uniform.**—Thanks to the enterprise of Henry Fuqua, superintendent of the Louisiana Penitentiary, the ugly, depressing and often degrading "convict stripes," the repellent uniforms with broad black bands running laterally, have been abandoned and the massive, towering, and gloomy "walls" at Baton Rouge, with their catacomb-like cells, void of light and ventilation, sweating dampness and chill, have been torn down.

The convicts now wear a neat uniform, made of a good grade of striped bed ticking, sufficiently distinctive to identify them as convicts and not sufficiently conspicuous to challenge general attention wherever and whenever they appear for work. They are now received at a neat, well-arranged "receiving station" about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the center of Baton Rouge. The first impression of a "fresh fish" at the "walls" in the old days was enough to give melancholia to a cast-iron statue of Mirth. The first impression of a "fresh fish" when he leaves the motor van that takes him to the new station is one of cleanliness, order, discipline. It was impossible to make the old "walls" look clean, no matter how hard the captain in charge drove the men at their jobs of washing and whitewashing. The place was unsightly and it required strenuous work to keep it from being insanitary.

#### TWO CONSPICUOUS REFORMS

These two are the most conspicuous of Mr. Fuqua's reforms, in which he has improved on the good work of the other managers who preceded him. Former Governor Heard doubled the size of the cells at the walls by cutting out alternate walls, and effected other desirable changes within the means of the Board of Control. The first thing the late Colonel C. Harrison Parker did when he became president of the Board of Control for the second time in 1912, was to order army socks for the prisoners. Colonel Parker, after long opposition to a parole system, consented to it in 1914 and aided in its adoption. The present parole law, adopted since Mr. Fuqua became manager, does not allow for the parole of life termers, but it more liberal than its predecessors in other details. One of the less obvious but highly important reforms established by Mr. Fuqua is the extension of the "trusty system" to jobs as guards. The guards wear no penitentiary uniforms. They are armed. They get no salaries and that saves the management a large sum annually.

This innovation follows the success of the "trusty guard" system in Mississippi and the indications up to the present are that it will be so successful in Louisiana that it will never be abandoned. The establishment of it required considerable backbone, for the pressure on Mr. Fuqua to retain the old system of "all hired guards" by friends of the same was doubtless maintained for some time after he indicated he would make the change.

The new buildings at the receiving station are made of stone and brick from the old walls and steel and iron bought for the purpose. Most of the work was done by convicts, but it was necessary to employ masons and metal workers.—E. E. MOISE, in the New Orleans *Item*, July 7, 1918.